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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 420th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 22 May 1992, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

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Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Rapporteur to introduce sections I and II of the Committee's draft report, contained in document A/AC.159/L.117, after which the members of the Committee could continue to consider the elements for inclusion in the section containing the conclusions and recommendations.

2. Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar), Rapporteur, said that he hoped that the Committee would overcome all its difficulties and would achieve its common goal, namely, the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. He provided the Committee with a detailed summary of the contents of the draft report, which consisted of three sections.

3. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in the interest of speeding up the work of the Committee, the meeting should be conducted in strict accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. He reminded the members of the Committee that its 1984 decision regarding consensus pertained only to substantive issues. In addition, he informed the Committee of his intention to adhere strictly to rule 106 of the rules of procedure, which dealt with the functions of the Chairman.

4. Mr. JAIN (India) agreed with the Chairman that the Committee, which was a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, should work in accordance with the Assembly's rules of procedure. With respect to the adoption of decisions, the Assembly provided that various issues could be put to a vote. If the Chairman was suggesting that the Committee should follow that procedure, that would be a departure from the Committee's practice. His delegation considered that it was not advisable to diverge from the practice of adopting decisions by consensus, which had been an established practice in the Committee since 1984.

5. Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) drew the Committee's attention to page 1 of the draft report and observed that section III should be entitled "Conclusions and recommendations". That would be in keeping with the discussion on section I. Moreover, he proposed that the statement of the Chairman, which had been circulated in document A/AC.149/L.116, should be included in an annex to the report.

6. Mr. JAIN (India) said that the wording of paragraph 6 of the draft report should be amended to read:

> "During two formal meetings, on 19 and 20 May (414th and 417th meetings), and also during informal consultations, the Ad Hoc Committee considered item 4 of its agenda, which dealt with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/49."

(Mr. Jain, India)

There was no reason to change the title of section III, since in the past the title of that section had been "Conclusion". The elements for inclusion in the text of the Committee's conclusions and recommendations were still being discussed. If the final version of section III of the report actually included recommendations, the title of that section could be changed at a later stage.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to amend paragraph 6 of the draft report as proposed by the representative of India.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, in his opinion, the second proposal of the representative of India - not to change the title of section III for the time being - was also acceptable.

10. Mr. AMBEYI-LIGABO (Kenya) said that he saw no reason why the title of section III could not be amended immediately. The Committee could decide whether or not such an amendment was acceptable when it considered the report as a whole.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to amend the title of section III of the report to read "Conclusions and recommendations".

12. It was so decided.

13. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his delegation could not consider the amendment of the title of section III as a formal decision of the Ad Hoc Committee.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take note of the observation made by the representative of India. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the proposal of the representative of Pakistan to include as an annex to the report the statement he had made and which had been circulated in document A/AC.159/L.116.

15. It was so decided.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that, since there were no comments on sections I and II of the draft report, the Committee would proceed to hold informal consultations in order to discuss the elements for inclusion in section III.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.